

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-07

INFO OCT-01 SSO-00 ADP-00 /008 R

DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:WNEWLIN

APPROVED BY:S/S-O:WILLIAM NEWLIN

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O 241002Z AUG 73 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

USSAG IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 168576

SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

DELIVER IMMEDIATELY

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION STATE 24 AUG 73 RPT TO YOU QUOTE

S E C R E T BANGKOK 13220

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, TH

SUBJECT: FORCE REDUCTION TALKS

DEPT PASS CINCPAC AND USSAG FOR GENERAL VOGT

REF: A. STATE 161191 B. BANGKOK 13197 C. STATE 168561

1. DESPITE OUR EFFORTS ALONG LINE REF C, AT FRIDAY NEGOTIATING
SESSION THAI SIDE INSISTED THAT IN VIEW OF PRESS AND PUBLIC
INTEREST AND PRESSURES ON PRIME MINISTER, IT WAS ABSOLUTELY
ESSENTIAL FOR RTG TO RELEASE STATEMENT TODAY. FOLLOWING TEXT AGREED
AD REFERENDUM AND BEING SUBMITTED TO PRIME MINISTER
THANOM LATER TODAY. RELEASE PLANNED FOR 2000
LOCAL (241300Z TODAY FOR EVENING TV NEWSCASTS AS WELL AS
SATURDAY MORNING PAPERS.

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2. BEGIN TEXT

JOINT PRESS COMMUNIQUE BETWEEN THAILAND AND THE UNITED STATES

ON AUGUST 17, 1973 (B.E. 2516), THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT AGREED TO PROCEED WITH OFFICIAL DISCUSSIONS WITH A VIEW TO REDUCING THE LEVEL OF UNITED STATES FORCES IN THAILAND.

ACCORDINGLY, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS, HEADED ON THE UNITED STATES SIDE BY MAJOR GENERAL THOMAS MELLEN AND ON THE THAI SIDE BY LT. GENERAL KRIANGSAK CHOMANAN, HELD A MEETING ON AUGUST 24, 1973 (B.E. 2516) AT 0900 HOURS AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. AS A RESULT OF THIS MEETING IT WAS AGREED THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS FOR AN INITIAL WITHDRAWAL OF 3,550 UNITED STATES MILITARY PERSONNEL FROM THAILAND AND ALSO A REDUCTION OF OVER 100 AIRCRAFT.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WILL CONTINUE TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH A VIEW TO AGREEING ON PLANS FOR FURTHER GRADUAL REDUCTIONS OF THE LEVEL OF UNITED STATES FORCES IN THAILAND, INCLUDING STRATEGIC, TACTICAL AND SUPPORT AIRCRAFT, WHILE TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION SECURITY REQUIREMENTS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA.

THEY AGREED TO MEET AGAIN IN THE FIRST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER.

BANGKOK, AUGUST 24, 1973 (B.E. 2516) END TEXT.

3. FIGURE OF 3550 PERSONNEL PROPOSED BY THAI SIDE TO INDICATE SOME INCREASE FROM 3500 FIGURE USED FOLLOWING AUGUST 17 TALKS.

4. MENTION OF "REDUCTION OF OVER 100 AIRCRAFT" FOLLOWED THAI INSISTENCE ON SPECIFYING A NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT. FIGURE WAS UNDERSTOOD BY ALL PARTIES TO APPLY TO REDUCTION FROM AUTHORIZED CEILING FIGURES, NOT ACTUAL MOVEMENT OF AIRCRAFT OUT OF COUNTRY. US SIDE COMPUTED PROPOSED REDUCTIONS OF TACTICAL AND SUPPORT AIRCRAFT WOULD TOTAL
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117REDUCTION FROM PRESENT IN-COUNTRY RTG AUTHORIZATION, I.E. 30 USMC F-4, 23 USMC A-6, 6 USMC KC-130, 6 USAF F-105, 36 USAF F-4, 12 USAF F-111, 4 USMC CH-46.

5. REFERENCE TO FUTURE REDUCTION "INCLUDING STRATEGIC, TACTICAL AND SUPPORT AIRCRAFT" AROSE FROM THAI INSISTENCE THAT PUBLIC AND PRESS INTEREST, AS WELL AS THAI RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBOR COUNTRIES, FOCUSSED PARTICULARLY ON B-52

PRESENCE. THAIS ALSO INSISTED THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT
TO EXPLAIN PRESENT LEVEL OF KC-135 TANKER AIRCRAFT
FOLLOWING WITHDRAWAL OF TACAIR SQUADRONS.

6. NEXT MEETING TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED SEPTEMBER 7.
UNGER UNQUOTE ROGERS

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